

**INDIANA NATIVE AMERICAN  
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

*INAIAC*

**PROGRESS REPORT  
2006**

Date Submitted  
January 10, 2007

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor  
Chief Brian Buchanan, Chairman

January 10, 2007

Dear Governor Daniels & Legislators,

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC) is pleased to provide a report on the progress for its first year. This report explains the initial barriers and progress since the re-instatement of its duties. INAIAC initiated many study groups and committees at year-end and will continue to provide the community recommended solutions to many problems the Native American Community experiences.

As INAIAC being a new Commission and facing many obstacles, we hope to make recommendations that will allow us to grow prosperously and continue to make positive decisions towards the welfare of all Native American people in the State of Indiana, The Land of the Indians. There is a description of accomplishments and objectives, which will enable the Commissioners to provide timelines in order to meet our goals for future growth.

The INAIAC is a Study Commission with virtually no funding other than administrative support from the Department of Workforce Development. We have struggled finding the avenues to accomplish the duties that are expected for the Native American Community. We hope to provide a clear synopsis of events and necessary recommended changes that will allow prosperity for Native American people. Attention will be given to focus on education, employment, social and cultural awareness that will reflect positive results and upward trends towards Economic Growth for the State of Indiana.

INAIAC is excited and honored to serve the State of Indiana and the Native American population and the gratitude we have for the opportunity to have a second chance will forever be in our hearts. The duty put to INAIAC of bridging the community with its many diverse issues will be a challenge. Its progress has demonstrated its ability to press onward with positive accomplishments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Brian Buchanan  
INAIAC Chairman

### Mission:

The mission for the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission is to study problems common to Native American citizens of Indiana in the areas of employment, education, civil rights, health, housing, and the promotion for Native American Awareness. The commission is dedicated to make recommendations to appropriate federal, state and local governmental agencies. The ultimate objective is to bring the Native Community together and provide opportunities to the Native American Community while enhancing the economic growth within the State of Indiana.

### SCOPE:

The outlined scope the commission can operate under has been adopted under the approved INAIAC Bylaws governed by the Legislation passed that created it. The areas of interest, which will be pursued:

- ⊕ Health Issues affecting Native American Indian Communities, including data collection, equal access to public assistance programs, and informing health officials of cultural traditions relevant to health care.
- ⊕ Encourage cultural retention among Native American communities.
- ⊕ Cooperation and understanding between the Native American Indian communities and other communities throughout Indiana.
- ⊕ Cultural barriers concerning Native American Indians to the educational system, including barriers to higher education and opportunities for financial aid and minority scholarships.
- ⊕ Inaccurate information and stereotypes concerning Native American Indians, including the accuracy of educational curriculum.
- ⊕ Measures to stimulate job skill training and related workforce development, including initiatives to assist employers to overcome communication and cultural differences concerning Native Americans.
- ⊕ Programs to encourage the growth and support of Native American Indian owned businesses.
- ⊕ Public awareness of issues affecting the Native American Indian communities.

- ⊕ Issues concerning Preservation and excavation of Native American Indian historical and archaeology sites, including but not limited to the reburial and the final disposition of remains and artifacts of Native American Indians.
- ⊕ Measures that could facilitate easier access to State and local government services by Native American Indians.
- ⊕ Appropriation of funding needs.

### Milestone Accomplishments for 2006

- ⊕ Adoption and approval of the commission bylaws with amendments from subsequent meetings.
- ⊕ Creation of the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Department of Workforce Development Website to allow public access for all meeting minutes, commission bylaws, upcoming monthly agenda's, and to allow for any urgent messages to the Native American community, i.e., voting requirements.
- ⊕ Election of Co-chairman.
- ⊕ Public intervention at the Eiteljorg Indian Market.
- ⊕ Public intervention at IUPUI Native American Education Conference
- ⊕ Public intervention/partnership with Indiana Minority Health Coalition Fundraiser
- ⊕ Public intervention to celebrate Native American month at the Statehouse Rotunda
- ⊕ Approval of Town Hall Meetings and identification badges created to make attempts to outreach the Native American Community
- ⊕ Accepted the Eiteljorgs invitation to have all Commission Meetings at the Museum and agreement to set all meetings for 2007.
- ⊕ Creation of the Executive Committee: Duties are to meet and attend to situations in the interim of quarterly meetings per the bylaws and State Statute.
- ⊕ Creation of the Legislative Procedure Committee: Duties are to search for available funding opportunities for the Commission. Data collection and funding opportunities have been discovered and the Committee is ready to make recommendations to resolve this contributing obstruction of progress.
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Creation of the State Recognition Committee: Duties are to study and make recommendations to the Governor, Legislation, and the Commission on the necessity of its presence in the State of Indiana. Information has been gathered and studied from numerous States with successful recognition processes. The Committee has accepted the ideas from community consultants and now is ready to meet with the necessary State Administration and Legislative leaders to discuss resolution.

- ⊕ Creation of the Sachem Advisory Committee to assist in Indiana State Museum display: Duties are to provide consultation and advice concerning the Sachem Award display at the Indiana State Museum. Committee has been active in facilitating the display and will have a timeline available for completion in the next few weeks.
- ⊕ Creation of the Department of Corrections Spirituality Committee: Duties are to address spiritual needs of the Native Americans incarcerated within the Department of Corrections and make recommendations to the Commission.
- ⊕ Creation of the NAGPRA / Repatriation Committee: Duties are to study and report on applicable laws from Federal and State points of view.
- ⊕ Creation of Native American Directory Committee: Duties are to provide ongoing study to search for Native American Businesses and/or organizations that are owned by Native American People or promote Native American Presence in a positive way. The Committee has established a format and ongoing data collection.
- ⊕ Creation of three (3) Outreach Committees:
  - ⊕ Housing Assistance Committee:  
Duties are to provide information on housing assistance programs.  
(Heating, acquisition of new homes and elder assisted living.)
  - ⊕ Education Assistance Committee:  
Duties are to provide information on education funding availabilities for Native Americans and/or any other needs desired by the collegiate population. Studies will be implemented to gain information on the best scenario if Indiana had State Recognition for Native Americans and the availability of programs coming into Indiana from federal sources.
  - ⊕ Health Assistance Committee:  
Duties are to provide information that the State of Indiana may have concerning Native American health issues. It will provide recommendations to the commission and appropriate state offices to

get programs in place to help the Native American community. It will provide statistics from State Agencies concerning any Native American issues.

#### 2006 Vital Conclusions / Recommendations:

- ⊕ The INAIAC has made observations and discovered findings that it has determined to be vital to continue its prosperous existence. With the creation of Legislation, the State of Indiana has provided the support to initialize the termination of the “Divide and Conquer Theory” by allowing the Native American Community and its Commission Representatives to exist. The Community still faces obstacles that severely encumber its productivity. The Commission suggests that the State of Indiana recognizes all Native Americans to be equal by accepting a Native American State Recognition process that accomplishes and satisfies equality for all of the Native Community in its entirety. With this acceptance, it will completely extinguish the theory that has forever hindered the progress of the Native American population. By fulfilling this recommendation, it will provide many opportunities through Federal and State Agencies. The recommendation to achieve the equality for all can be pursued by executive order, the creation of Legislation for long-term purposes or an amendment to existing legislation. The State Recognition Committee is prepared to make its proposal to appropriate State Leaders for the necessity of this affirmative action.
- ⊕ The INAIAC has studied and determined the productivity can measurably be improved by establishing necessary funding. The Legislative Procedures Committee has discovered opportunities that bring funding possibilities to the INAIAC. It will introduce its findings with recommendations to the Legislators for appropriations that can be available to continue the crucial growth of INAIAC.
- ⊕ The INAIAC is dedicated to press onward with its mission. Observations reveal to continue measurable progress in a timelier manner; the INAIAC would like to make a recommendation for the appointments of the empty Native American seats to be designated. The Commission continues to make progress at each meeting demonstrating organization and decision-making. In order to productively achieve the 2007 objectives, to appoint designees for the Native American absent seats would seal voids and provide more support to existing Native American Commissioners.

## 2007 Objectives:

### Commission:

- ⊕ Initialize timelines and make preparations for a 2-year strategic plan to accomplish the following objectives
- ⊕ Establish funding possibilities for the commission to function in a more productive goal oriented fashion
- ⊕ Solidify the definition of equality for all Indiana Native American citizens thru the implementation of a State Recognition Process.
- ⊕ To continue to support Native American Community Functions and be available to receive input from the Native American population thru the implementation of Town Hall meetings throughout the State of Indiana
- ⊕ Promote Native American Awareness in a more visual method by utilizing necessary statewide communication avenues
- ⊕ INAIAC will create a study committee to explore Native American owned businesses and report on any barriers that may obstruct expansion or any programs that may be available to enhance the growth.
- ⊕ Broaden the responsibility for the Outreach Committees to fulfill the scope outlined by the INAIAC Bylaws and State Statute.

### Committee:

- ⊕ All Committee objectives will follow the similar organizational methods set forth by the INAIAC. Timelines and goals will be initiated and periodic recommendations will be made upon completion of commission/committee expectations of previously mentioned duties. The INAIAC will promptly address any non-productive committee and be available to assist in pursuing obstacles that committee may be experiencing.